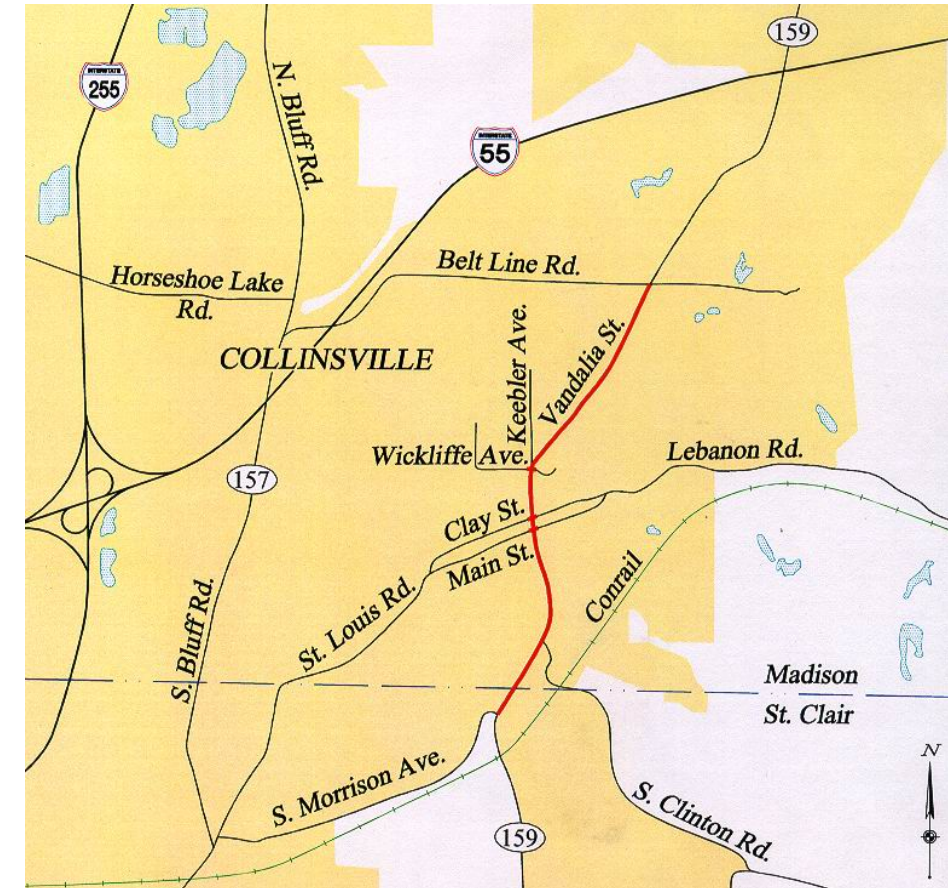


OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 159 From South Morrison Road to Beltline Road

Place: American Legion
Date: February 15, 2006

City, State: Collinsville, Illinois
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



~ An "Open House" Format Will Be Utilized ~

~ No Formal Presentation Will Be Made ~

~ All Comments Accepted ~



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**
Division of Highways/District 8
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, Illinois 62234



Illinois Route 159
Project Study
Visit The Website!
www.dot.il.gov/ILroute159

OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 159 From South Morrison Road to Beltline Road Madison/St. Clair County, Illinois



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the open house public meeting for the improvement of Illinois Route 159 from South Morrison Road to Beltline Road in Collinsville. Personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the consulting firms of Volkert & Associates, Inc. and Woolpert, Inc. are here to discuss the project, answer your questions and receive your comments regarding the proposed improvements.

AGENDA

This meeting is being held in an “open house” format to allow informal discussions between the public and study team members throughout the session. Participants are also encouraged to submit written comments about the project. Written statements may be given to us today or may be mailed to the District Engineer at a later date. A comment form is provided in this handout for your use. Also, a tape recorder is available for oral comments.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to give the community an opportunity to work with the project team to develop a plan that increases the safety and mobility of Illinois Route 159 while preserving and enhancing the scenic, economic, historic and natural qualities of Collinsville. To develop this solution, the project team needs to hear and understand the public’s concerns and priorities for the community. Included in this handout is a Public Comment Form. We hope that you will take the time to express your comments and concerns on the improvements to Illinois Route 159, so that the design team can keep them in consideration during the design report process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will extend from South Morrison Avenue north through Collinsville to Belt Line Road. To improve the safety and efficiency of the roadway, it is anticipated that additional through lanes will be required and possibly additional turn lanes at the intersections. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has set specific goals to improve the capacity of Illinois Route 159 utilizing two-2 through lanes in each direction and reduce the accident rates at high accident locations within the project limits.

HISTORY

This project started in response to a feasibility study initiated by the City of Collinsville that was completed in July of 2004. A feasibility study is conducted to determine if a highway improvement warrants further study. This initial feasibility study reviewed existing and planned land uses, existing and projected traffic volumes, and the transportation network as a whole. Results of this study and its public involvement effort concluded that the Illinois Route 159 corridor warranted additional study.

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Illinois Route 159 project has moved to a Location and Environment Study (Phase I). This phase of the project will involve evaluation of potential alternatives to address congestion and safety issues within the corridor. Potential alternatives will be evaluated based on environmental impacts, residential and commercial impacts, improvements to the transportation system, and feedback from the public.

It is anticipated that this Phase of the project will require approximately 36 months starting in August of 2005. A number of public involvement activities will be scheduled during this phase of the project. At least three-3 full scale public involvement meetings will be conducted to solicit input from the public regarding issues to be addressed by the project, input on various alternatives, and input on a recommended alternative.

After Phase I has concluded, Land Acquisition and Final Design can be completed. Please note that this project does not currently have funding for land acquisition or construction.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FUNDING

IDOT plans, designs and construct projects in three phases. Phase I is the preliminary design and environmental study of the project, Phase II is the preparation of the final design and construction bid documents, and Phase III is the actual construction of the project. The project team’s goal is to complete Phase I in 36 months. This process started in August of 2005. It is estimated that Phase II will require approximately 24 months and Phase III will require approximately 36 months. A better estimate of the length of time required for Phases II and II can be prepared after Phase I is completed.

Land acquisition can begin once the Phase I report has been approved, but it has not been funded. Construction (Phase III) is not currently funded and cannot begin until that funding is in place.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Improvements to Illinois Route 159 From South Morrison Road to Beltline Road

We encourage you to express your comments and views on the improvements to Illinois Route 159 from South Morrison Road to Beltline Road. We are providing this form so that your comments will be directed to the design team for evaluation and consideration in proceeding with the design report. You may either leave the form with us today or mail it to the department at the address provided on the reverse side of this form. Your comments should be mailed within 10 days of this meeting in order to provide timely consideration. Please note if you are affected as a homeowner, business or both.

We appreciate your input. If you would like to provide additional information, please submit your comments on additional pages.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

☐

Please check the box to the left if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Check one or more as applicable:

___ Homeowner along project route

___ Business owner along project route

___ Use route to commute

___ Interested party

Comments: _____

What should IDOT try to accomplish with this roadway project? What should the purpose of this project be? _____

Do you feel that the Department is coordinating with the public effectively? If no, how can we improve? _____

(Fold on dotted line)

(Return address)

Place
Stamp
Here

IL Route 159 Project Team
c/o Woolpert, Inc.
343 Fountains Parkway, Suite 100
Fairview Heights, IL 62208-2044

(Fold on dotted line)

(Please tape)